

Application No. 09/899,915

REMARKS

Claims 4, 5, 7, 10-14, 27, 29-34, 36 and 38-43 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 4, 11, 12, 27, 32, 34, 36, 39 and 40 amended. Reconsideration based on the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

The courtesies extended to Applicant's representatives by Examiner Liang at the interview held April 6, 2004, are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below and constitute Applicant's record of the interview.

As asserted by Applicant's representatives, and agreed to by the Examiner at the April 6 personal interview, Knapp does not disclose or suggest first and second switching devices (or switching means) being controlled by respective control signals supplied from separate signal lines, as set forth in independent claims 4, 11, 27 and 32, and dependent claim 40. Support for these features is found in the specification, at least in Figs. 3 and 4 and their associated disclosure.

On the contrary, Knapp, at least in Fig. 3 and at col. 6, line 6 to col. 7, line 61, discloses that switches 32, 33 and 38 are controlled by signals supplied from the same signal line 12.

Further, as asserted by Applicant's representatives, and agreed to by the Examiner at the April 6 personal interview, Knapp does not disclose or suggest a current path connecting to a current sink through a data line, as set forth in independent claim 12, and similarly set forth in independent claims 34, 36 and 39. Support for these features is found in the specification, at least in Fig. 5 and its associated disclosure.

On the contrary, Knapp, at least in Figs. 2-4 and at col. 6, lines 55-59, discloses a current path connecting to ground through voltage supply line 31.

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For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 4, 11, 12, 27, 32, 34, 36 and 39 are patentable over the applied art. Claims 5, 7, 10, 13, 14, 29-31, 33, 37, 38, 40-43, which depend from independent claims 4, 27, 32, 36 and 39, respectively, also are patentable over the applied art for at least the reasons discussed above. Withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) and 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 4, 5, 7, 10-14, 27, 29-34, 36 and 38-43 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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